

# Who was this Maxon anyway?

Who was Hamilton J. G. Maxon, whose name appears on old abstracts on the very bottom (first) page?

Maxon filed for a donation land claim in 1849 on the 641 acres that eventually became the original townsite of LaCamas. He did not receive his patent with President Lincoln's name on it until 1865. The delay was caused by the inordinate slowness of the overworked little bureaucracy in Washington prior to the Civil War, and the president was too busy with the rebellion to grant patents or titles.

The rest of the story of the land is told elsewhere in this issue.

The two Maxon brothers, the other being Silas D., came from Kentucky by way of West Virginia and Missouri, in 1847. Silas came first, followed a little later by Hamilton. First, Hamilton took out a land claim near Salem. In 1846, he joined the Oregon Rifles after the Whitman Massacre and commanded a company in the 1848 Cayuse war. Meanwhile, Silas moved onto the Oregon claim while his brother was in the service.

After the war Hamilton joined the California gold rush in 1849, and the following year returned to Oregon. The two brothers decided to come to Clark

County. They built two sawmills on LaCamas Creek. In 1852, Hamilton became the second postmaster of Washougal, the community that was developing at Parker's Landing.

Hamilton and Silas went immediately into politics when they arrived here in 1850. Silas was the first treasurer of Clark County and served through 1853. Hamilton was elected to the Oregon territorial legislature but was defeated in the 1851 election. In 1852, the year he was appointed postmaster of Washougal, Hamilton was elected county commissioner. Clark was still part of Oregon Territory.

When a call went out for organizing the second regiment of Mounted Rifles in the new Washington Territory in 1856, Hamilton volunteered and was given the rank of major. He served in the Indian uprisings of that period and was engaged in one of the key battles that reduced the numbers of Indians.

Little is known of Hamilton's later activities and demise. His brother Silas, moved to a place north of Vancouver and was elected justice of the peace of Preston precinct in 1866. The family later moved to Vancouver and ran a store, and in 1874 Silas was named postmaster of Vancouver for four months.